New Port Oct 3. 1857

Wm L Garrison

Dear friend

113 We are prosecuting our School question; and need assistance: being the proscribed class of community our influence is very limited: we have not received much assistance from the Anti Slavery friends of the State in the way of remarks and Public identity with the movement; we entertain strong hopes of success; what we want is some Lecturer or Lecturers to go into certain districts: the Country members of the Legislature are right: but what is needed is that some one urge them to act and not be influenced by the Providence delegation. It seems to me that a Triumph like this

would be just now; ~~it~~ would be most desirable ~~to affecting~~ in effecting the desire now prevalent, ~~to~~ crush~~ing~~ us out: Can you not regard it in this light? Will not your Society deem the matter of sufficient importance to send some Lecturers in the field? – Its effect on the general question cannot but be great; I know that the thought will suggest itself – the expense – I now come to an unpleasant fact. The parties to be benefitted have been so educated, or so ignorant as to their interest on this subject, with some exceptions; as not to feel aright, or the independance, or the necessity for sacrifices in the matter; hence they will not act as they should; many who are with us feel ~~Of~~ a dependance upon those they must oppose in taking an active part in this matter; most are really poor, hence the matter the expense &c has come upon a very few of us = it has all ready cost us hundreds of Dollars — Will you not help us ? in the way we ask above though you may not be able to do much pecuniarily; Lay the matter before your friends — will you Please see Mr Phillips as soon as possible and Say to him that I have demanded a hearing before the Public School Commissioners of the State, my children having been refused admission to the "nearest Public School" and that I will be obliged to him if he will Send to my address at New Port, the book with notes ~~the~~ and the documents on the School question which I sent to him. Yours with respect

Geo T Downing